



Frequently Asked Questions – Volunteering

Do you offer internships/externships? Internships/externships are normally handled by VA Puget Sound's Centralized Education Department (CED) through established academic affiliation agreements. Your internship/externship may be possible through our Voluntary Service program if you're able to fill one of our volunteer assignment needs and meet the expected time commitments.

How about job shadowing opportunities? We do not consider job shadowing a volunteer assignment. You may wish to inquire with CED about their clinical observation policy.

Will volunteering lead to a paid job at VA Puget Sound? While VA volunteering is great experience for a resume, VA volunteer assignments are designed to supplement the needs of our health care system and the Veterans we serve. VA volunteer assignments are not considered trainee positions nor are they intended to lead to VA paid positions.

What sort of training and processing is required before I can start my volunteer assignment? All registered VA volunteers must attend a two hour general orientation session held every week – at Seattle, every other Thursday morning; at American Lake, every other Monday afternoon. On orientation day, new volunteers must also be fingerprinted for a background check and VA identification badge. Many assignments require some additional job-specific training (on line, classroom, and/or on-the-job).

Why do you require a minimum time commitment of 100 hours and 6 months? Because of the training and processing that's involved, we ask people to make these minimum time commitments. Exceptions are possible based on individual circumstances and facility needs.